

A modern classic completely updated and expanded

JACK DEERE

*Why I Am Still*  
SURPRISED  
*by the*  
VOICE  
*of*  
GOD

How God Speaks Today Through  
Prophecies, Dreams, and Visions

A PDF COMPANION TO THE AUDIOBOOK

ZONDERVAN REFLECTIVE

*Why I Am Still Surprised by the Voice of God*

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*Appendix 4*

The Ministry of the Holy  
Spirit and the Book of Acts



- I. Some of the Various Ministries of the Holy Spirit
  - A. The Holy Spirit regenerates—causes the rebirth of—those who believe in Christ.
    - 1. John 3:3–7 (born again).
    - 2. Titus 3:5: “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”
    - 3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us that since we are born again, we have a new nature.
  - B. The Holy Spirit indwells all believers.
    - 1. 1 Corinthians 6:19: “Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”
    - 2. Romans 8:9: “You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”
    - 3. In the Old Testament, the only person assured of the presence of the Spirit was the king. But even here the thought is that the Spirit “came powerfully upon David” (1 Samuel 16:13) and is with the king rather than the Spirit indwelling the king.



4. The Spirit could not be given to indwell believers until Jesus had been crucified and then glorified (John 7:37–39).
- C. At the moment of our new birth, we are sealed by the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal guaranteeing that we are owned by God and that we will be taken to heaven at the end of our earthly lives.
  1. 2 Corinthians 1:22.
  2. Ephesians 1:13.
  3. Ephesians 4:30.
- D. The Holy Spirit gives all believers spiritual gifts.
  1. 1 Corinthians 12:11.
  2. There are twenty-one spiritual gifts.<sup>1</sup>
- E. The Holy Spirit fills believers. This means the Spirit supernaturally empowers believers to give prophetic testimony that Jesus is the Messiah.
  1. In Luke, the filling of the Spirit is a onetime event empowering Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John to testify to Jesus as the Messiah before Jesus was born.
  2. This is not a onetime empowering meant to help us live the Christian life better, but in Acts it is a repeatable empowering to help us evangelize. In Acts, unbelievers are present every time someone is filled with the Spirit.

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1. See Jack Deere, *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2020), 253–78.

3. The first people filled with the Spirit are Elizabeth (Luke 1:41), John as a baby in Elizabeth's womb (Luke 1:14, with 1:41), and Zechariah at John's birth (Luke 1:67). All of these are a prophetic empowering testifying to John's role as the forerunner of the Messiah.
  4. These are the evangelistic examples of prophetic empowering: Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9.<sup>2</sup>
- F. The Holy Spirit leads and guides believers.
1. Romans 8:14.
  2. Acts 16:6–10.
- G. The Holy Spirit reveals the excellencies of the Trinity and teaches believers about Jesus and his kingdom.
1. John 14:15–17, 26.
  2. John 15:26.
  3. John 16:12–15.
- H. The Holy Spirit intercedes for all believers: Romans 8:26–27.
- I. The Holy Spirit testifies to Christians' spirits that we are children of God: Romans 8:16.
- J. The Holy Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
1. The prophets searched their own written prophecies to understand the messianic times

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2. For a full explanation of the filling of the Spirit, see *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*, 160–82.

and circumstances that the Spirit of Christ was predicting through them (1 Peter 1:10–12).

2. The Old Testament prophets “were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).
3. David, the author of many psalms, claims, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me” (2 Samuel 23:2).

## II. Baptism *in* the Spirit, not *by* the Spirit.

A. Jesus baptizes every believer in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is not the baptizer. John the Baptist said, “He [Jesus] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 3:11).

B. The Greek verb *baptizo* (“baptize”) means “to dip or immerse.” The first English translators of the New Testament did not translate the verb; they merely transliterated it into English letters. Jesus immerses every believer into the Spirit the moment they believe in him. This is how Jesus places us into his body.

1. “For *in* one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13 ESV, emphasis added).
2. The translation found in the older translations—“we were all baptized *by* one Spirit”—is surely wrong. John the Baptist said that *Jesus* is the baptizer. The Greek preposition *en* usually means “in” or “with,” not “by.” If Paul had wanted to make it clear that the Spirit was doing the

baptizing, he would have used the preposition *hypo*. When we believe in Jesus, he immerses us in the Spirit, and this act places us in his body.

3. All Christians are baptized in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13).

III. The confusion over “baptism in the Spirit” results from misunderstanding the stories of Acts.

A. In Acts 2, the Spirit regenerates, indwells, seals, gives spiritual gifts, and fills the 120. But Luke only mentions two of these works: the filling of the Spirit and the giving of the gift of tongues.

B. Jesus said to the disciples before Pentecost, “In a few days you will be baptized with [or in] the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5). This has led some people to think that everything that happened in Acts 2 is the baptism by the Spirit. They think that the filling of the Spirit and baptism in the Spirit are the same thing and that speaking in tongues is the evidence of baptism by the Spirit. They think that baptism in the Spirit is what gives us power to live a “victorious” life. Since the 120 were already believers, these people think that baptism in the Spirit happens after we’ve been believers for a while and have finally come to realize how much we need supernatural help to live the Christian life.

C. This mistaken interpretation comes from failing to interpret the stories of Acts in light of the other

biblical statements about the baptism with the Spirit, notably that Jesus is the baptizer, not the Spirit, and that all Christians are baptized in the Spirit and this act places them in the body of Christ rather than empowering them to live a successful Christian life.